EPSDT

Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis, and Treatment

What is EPSDT?

According to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS - the federal agency in charge of Medicaid), EPSDT is based on two principles: 1) Assuring that health care services are available and accessible; and 2) Assisting eligible children and youth to get the health care services they need.

Federal law requires that each state's EPSDT program provide a variety of health care services and preventive check-ups to ensure that children receive the treatment they need to maintain and/or improve their health. States must inform all Medicaid beneficiaries that EPSDT services are available to them. They must also reach out to families who are potentially eligible and follow up to make sure that services are being provided.

Under EPSDT, eligible children and youth are entitled to regular check-ups and full physical <u>and mental health care from birth up to age 21.</u>

What do the letters stand for?

The first three letters of EPSDT refer to the fact that eligible children are entitled to regular, comprehensive assessments of their health, or Early Periodic Screenings. These assessments (or "screenings") must include check-ups in four areas: Physical health, dental health, vision, and hearing. The purpose of these screenings is to:

Find any problems or conditions as early as possible so that they may be treated

Ensure that children receive necessary health care on a routine basis (e.g., immunizations, ongoing monitoring or existing conditions).

Screenings address normal developmental concerns as well as signs of illness or a change in health. Children do not have to be sick in order to be screened. Screenings also allow the rest of the process (diagnosis and treatment) to continue and be paid for by Medicaid.

There are three types of screenings that a state must provide. The first kind is called an <u>initial screen</u>. This is a check-up that must be provided when a child enters the Medicaid program. The second type of screen is called a <u>periodic screen</u> (well child check-up), and should occur at regular intervals (e.g., babies get six hearing and vision screenings in the first 12 months). The third type of screen is often the most useful for many families and is called an <u>interperiodic screen</u>. This is a check-up or assessment that can happen at any time outside of a regularly scheduled visit. If a child shows signs of illness or a change in his/her condition, a visit to that child's doctor can count as an interperiodic screen.

Required Components of the Screening Process:

- Total health/developmental history (including a complete assessment of physical and *mental health*)
- Complete physical exam
- > Immunizations
- Lab tests, including tests for lead toxicity in blood
- Health education/counseling
- > Eye exams/other vision tests
- Dental services (including check-ups, cleaning, and preventive work)
- Hearing services (including diagnosis and treatment, hearing aids)

How are EPSDT services delivered?

Wyoming Medicaid delivers Medicaid benefits, including EPSDT in a fee-for-service system. Physicians and other providers are paid directly by the state to provide Medicaid services. A primary care physician for the child/youth works with the family in accessing the services your child needs.

What are the requirements for EPSDT services?

EPSDT law has certain requirements that must be met in order for a service or treatment to be administered. For a treatment to be covered by EPSDT, it must:

- > Be medically necessary
- Fit within a recognized Medicaid service category
- > Be prescribed and provided by a Medicaid physician/provider (i.e., one who has an agreement with the state).

Who is eligible for EPSDT?

EPSDT is a required part of every state Medicaid plan and therefore has the exact same eligibility standards as Medicaid. Every child with a Medicaid card is eligible to receive services under EPSDT.

Children receiving services through the Children's Mental Health Waiver are eligible for EPSDT services as described in this overview.

Resource

EPSDT: Supporting Children with Disabilities http://www.hsri.org/docs/792FinalEPSDTBooklet.PDF